unauthorised trade. As regards the India-Nepal Transit Treaty, it was signed in 1999 and is valid for seven years.

Setting up task force for prevention from Nuclear and Biological Warfare

†2858. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise a task force for protection from nuclear and bio-attack;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the task force is likely to be raised?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, Government have initiated necessary steps to ensure protection from nuclear and bio-attack. It would not be in the interest of national security to disclose further details in this regard.

Prevention of civilian Sportsmen from practising on Defence Play Grounds

2859. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Defence authorities are preventing civilian Sportsmen from practising on the Play Grounds of Defence cantonment areas in several parts of India and specially in Andhra Pradesh at Lal-Bazar (Trimulgherry of Sec'bad cantonment) and other places; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) and (b) Play grounds of civil areas maintained by Cantonment Boards including Secunderabad are meant for the public use and there is no question of preventing sportsmen practising in these play grounds. However, certain open grounds located on A-1 Defence land are meant for exclusive use by the Army and request received at times from various sports organisations for allotment/use of such grounds are not acceded to, as use of A-1 Defence land for any purpose other than the Army is not permitted as per prevailing Defence Land Policy.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.